CLAIM OR CLAIMS:

1. A method of displaying automotive diagnostic information comprising:

connecting a code reader to a vehicle computer;

communicating monitor status information and trouble codes to the code reader from the vehicle computer;

selectively illuminating monitor icons on the code reader that are supported by the vehicle being tested;

displaying status of the supported monitors;

displaying trouble codes communicated from the vehicle computer; and

displaying trouble code descriptors corresponding to the displayed trouble code.

2. The process as recited in Claim 1 wherein the trouble code descriptors are generated independent of any user input upon receipt of the trouble code.

3. The method as recited in Claim 2 wherein the trouble code descriptors are generated independent of any user input to identify the type of vehicle being tested.

4. The method as recited in Claim 1 wherein the selective illumination of supported monitors is implemented independent of any user input identifying the type of vehicle being tested.

5. The process as recited in Claim 1 wherein the status of all supported monitors is displayed in a single display.

6. The process as recited in Claim 1 wherein all diagnostic display functions are displayed in a single display.

7. The process as recited in Claim 1 wherein all display functions are operative independent of any manual input to identify the type of vehicle being tested.